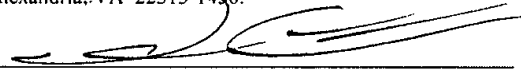


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: **J. Prudent *et al.***
Serial No.: **09/982,667**
Filed: **10/18/01**
Entitled: **INVASIVE CLEAVAGE OF NUCLEIC ACIDS**
Group No.: **1637**
Examiner: **Siew, J.**

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION
MAILED AUGUST 28, 2003**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)(1)(i)(A)	
I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is, on the date shown below, being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA-22313-1450.	
Dated: <u>January 28, 2004</u>	By:  David A. Casimir

Sir:

The following communication is responsive to the Office Action mailed August 28, 2003, with response due on or before November 28, 2003. A Petition for a two month extension of time, from November 28, 2003 to January 28, 2004, is included herewith. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in view of the following amendments and remarks.

In accordance with the procedure for Revised Amendment Practice under 37 C.F.R. §1.121, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.